

December 13, 1999

Commissioner Jane Henney, M.D.
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20857

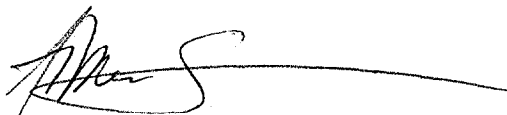
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Dear Dr. Henney,

I am writing to urge you to ban animal use of growth-promoting antibiotics that are important for use in human medicine. Overuse of antibiotics as growth promoters in livestock has been linked to the emergence of antibiotic-resistant diseases. Many of the drugs used to enhance growth in chickens, pigs, and cattle are the same as, or closely related to, those used to treat people. Fearing a rise in untreatable infectious diseases, the European Union has banned all growth-promoting uses of antibiotics used in human medicine. The United States should follow this lead and **ban growth-promoting antibiotics immediately.**

While the links between animal agriculture and human disease are complicated and in need of additional study, evidence is strong enough for scientists and public health organizations to call for reduced use of antimicrobial growth promoters in agriculture. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has concluded that, in the United States, **antimicrobial use in food animals is the dominant source of antibiotic resistance among food-borne pathogens.** Both the CDC and the World Health Organization have called for an end to the use for growth promotion in animals of those drugs that are used to treat human disease or that are related to such medicines. Please take action against this dangerous situation immediately.

Sincerely,



Aimee Curtright

McCusker Group
Department of Chemistry
University of California at Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720-1460

aimce@socrates.berkeley.edu
510-643-0895

99P 0485

C 2203

Aimee Curtright
McCusker Group
Department of Chemistry
University of California at Berkeley
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